

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method of operating a jump bar of a contact manager, comprising the steps of:
assigning a character code to a button of the jump bar, wherein the character code
is uniquely associated with an alphanumeric character of a character set having a single character
code uniquely associated with each alphanumeric character of a plurality of alphanumeric
characters from a plurality of languages;
10 retrieving contact information from a contacts information database by comparing
the assigned character code and the first alphanumeric character of the last names of contacts
having associated contact information previously stored in the contacts information database;
and,
displaying the retrieved contact information in a window of the contact manager.
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises a step of selecting the
character code assigned to the button of the jump bar based at least in part upon the usage
frequency of the associated alphanumeric character in the respective language thereof.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises a step of determining
respective weights for the alphanumeric characters of the plurality of alphanumeric characters.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of displaying the retrieved contact information
includes displaying retrieved contact information in groups corresponding to the languages of the
25 retrieved contact information.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the assigned character code is a first character code and
the button is a first button of the jump bar, wherein the first character code is associated with a
first language, and wherein the method further comprises a step of assigning a second character
30 code associated with a second language to a second button of the jump bar.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the assigned character code is a first character code associated with a first language, and wherein the method further comprises a step of assigning a second character code associated with a second language to the button of the jump bar.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of languages includes an Indic language.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the character code is a first character code, and wherein the method further comprises a step of assigning a second character code to the button of the jump bar in response to re-sizing of the window of the contact manager by a user.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the first character code has a first numeric value, wherein the second character code has a second numeric value, and wherein the second numeric value is numerically greater than the first numeric value.

10. A jump bar system, comprising:

a plurality of buttons displayable in a graphical user interface window of a contact manager, wherein each button is associated uniquely with a character code corresponding to an alphanumeric character of a character set having a single character code uniquely associated with each alphanumeric character of a plurality of languages;

a button data table including a character code and associated weight for each of a plurality of alphanumeric characters that are assignable to the buttons of the plurality of buttons; and,

a computer software routine including a plurality of executable instructions, said computer software routine being operable to uniquely associate buttons of said plurality of buttons with character codes corresponding to alphanumeric characters of said character set.

11. The jump bar system of claim 10, wherein said computer software routine is further operable to update said graphical user interface window of said contact manager with contact information.

12. The jump bar system of claim 10, wherein said weight for each of said plurality of alphanumeric characters is based at least in part on the usage frequency of each said alphanumeric character within the language thereof.

13. The jump bar system of claim 10, wherein said computer software routine is operable to uniquely associate a character code of a first alphanumeric character of a first language with a first button of said plurality of buttons and to uniquely associate a character code of a second alphanumeric character of a second language with a second button of said plurality of buttons.

14. The jump bar system of claim 10, wherein said computer software routine is operable to uniquely associate a character code of a first alphanumeric character of a first language with a button of said plurality of buttons and to uniquely associate a character code of a second alphanumeric character of a second language with said button of said plurality of buttons.

15. The jump bar system of claim 10, wherein said plurality of languages include at least one Indic language.

16. A method of operating a jump bar of a contact manager, comprising the steps of:

associating a weight with each character code of a plurality of character codes corresponding to respective alphanumeric characters of a language, wherein each character code of the plurality of character codes uniquely corresponds in a one-to-one relationship to an alphanumeric character of a character set representing a plurality of alphanumeric characters of a plurality of languages, wherein the character codes associated with each language of the plurality of languages are arranged as respectively contiguous ranges of numbers;

selecting character codes from the plurality of character codes for association with respective rows of a plurality of rows of a table;

storing the selected character codes and associated weights in the table with each row of the table storing a character code and associated weight;

identifying character codes of the selected character codes for display on buttons of a jump bar of a contact manager; and,

displaying the alphanumeric characters corresponding to the identified character codes on respective buttons of the jump bar.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of associating a weight includes determining
5 the frequency with which an alphanumeric character is used in the language thereof and
assigning the weight based at least on the determined frequency.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of selecting character codes includes selecting
10 character codes from the plurality of character codes based at least in part on the weights
associated with the character codes.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the selected character codes have associated weights
which are greater than the associated weights of other character codes of the plurality of
character codes.

15 20. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of identifying character codes includes
identifying character codes based at least in part on the weights associated with the character
codes and the number of buttons displayable on the jump bar of the contact manager.

20 21. The method of claim 16, wherein the character set includes the Unicode character set.